

Party Punishes 4 Czech Writers And Curbs a Leading Magazine

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BELGRADE, Yugoslavia Sept. 28 — The Communist party of Czechoslovakia has moved harshly against the country's rebellious writers and through them, at liberal force in the party itself.

A communique issued yesterday by the party's Central Committee announced the ouster of Jan Prochazka, one of the country's best-known writers, as a candidate member of the committee, the expulsion of three other writers from the party and the virtual elimination of the leading Czechoslovak literary magazine.

The move, reported here by the Yugoslav press agency, Tanjug, represents the Czechoslovak party's long-delayed reaction to a mounting wave of independence and criticism among the intellectual and literary community. This culminated in a turbulent meeting of the writers' congress last June.

The action was considerably more severe than had generally been expected.

Expulsions No Surprise

The expulsion of three of the writers who voiced the harshest criticism of the regime at the congress did not come as a surprise, although some had predicted that they would escape with a warning. The three are Ludvik Vaculik, Ivan Klima and R. S. Riehm.

The three, who are in their 30's and 40's, led a bitter attack upon the party's monopoly of power at the congress and had the support of a large number of other participants.

The communique charged that they had fallen under "narrow, sectarian and even foreign influences." It blamed the writing community as a whole for allowing the writers' congress to become a platform for "foreign" views.

Of greater significance is the announcement that Literarni Noviny, the most popular and eagerly read intellectual publication in the country, and the most outspokenly liberal, will be put under control of the Ministry of Education and Culture. This in effect will eliminate its independence.

The communique said that the magazine, which had been published by the Union of Writers, had "become the organ of opposition political views." The writers expelled from the party are all on the editorial board, from which, presumably, they will be removed.

The Writers' Union will be

allowed to publish another magazine. There is a question, however, whether this will be allowed sufficient funds to approach the scale of Literarni Noviny.

The most surprising action taken by the Central Committee was the removal of Mr. Prochazka as a candidate member, although he apparently still keeps his party membership.

Interceded for Rebels

Mr. Prochazka was a Communist in excellent standing, has had good relations with President Antonin Novotny and was considered by the more rebellious writers as a party man, albeit of the more liberal wing.

Mr. Prochazka was not associated with the attacks made on the party during the congress, but he has worked to intercede for the rebels.

It is possible that Mr. Prochazka's punishment stems from the party's judgment that he was inept in keeping his fellow writers in line. The possibility is also raised that the action may mask a victorious move by the hard-line faction in the party leadership against more liberal members.

Since the struggle between the two factions has in recent years been resolved by compromise, it is possible that the measures will be softened in practice and that the independent activity of the writers and intellectuals will be allowed to resume, perhaps after a pause.